

**From:** Mark Stout  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/16/01 11:45pm  
**Subject:** Restitution, open application interfaces?

To you who defend the taxpayer against terrorists, foreign and domestic, Hail!

I'm looking for the part that returns money to people who were forced into upgrades, some penalty for Microsoft's demand, during the month just past, when they revoked Windows 95 licenses held (and paid for) by non-profit organizations, and how people can connect to a Microsoft Exchange Server with a mail reader other than Outlook.

I realize that three items got into the last paragraph, but I'm overflowing with thoughts at the moment. Microsoft, over the past two weeks, has tried to end the practice of notifying a software vendor of security holes and then publicizing them two weeks later to ensure that the vendor patches the flaws. In instances where the details have been withheld, other vendors have claimed that the flaw was "theoretical" and not real.

There are applications where the U.S. Government is using MS-DOS, because no version of Windows allows the flexibility that the application demands. Microsoft's licensing practices put them in a position to demand that respirators, missile fail-safe devices and astronaut life support systems be shut down; yet I've heard of no apologies or changes in these policies.

Netscape announced in 1994 that they were going to offer an operating system. Where did it go? When was it released?

The non-profit issue stands on it's own; automakers can't dictate what year of vehicle people buy.

If you're in a company or government agency that has Exchange Server handling mail, you have to use Outlook, security holes and all. The protocol by which Exchange and Outlook communicate is not licensed to anybody, not published, and not regulated for security. A non-Windows computer in any company that has Exchange Server is without mail, but I haven't seen the government move to fix this, I haven't been financially compensated or apologized to by Microsoft, and the specification for this interface hasn't been released.

Overturn the DMCA, free Dmitri Sklyarov and the population of the United States from this tyranny. The entire purpose of the American Revolution was to get such injustice off of our backs. The man said that backup software was possible, and went to jail for it. What taxpayer benefits from that? What would Jefferson have said? What if taxpayers had the situation put before them, and were asked to vote?

Microsoft's End User License Agreement for Media Player 7.x (part of Window 2000 and XP, free upgrade to Win95 and 98), gives Microsoft the right to arbitrarily delete files from the users computer. I haven't heard the reversal, apology, nor have I been financially compensated for that travesty.

Microsoft's End User License Agreement for FrontPage (web authoring

- I've never used it) forbids the use of the computer it's installed on to carry words portraying Microsoft in a negative light. You can't suggest that FrontPage's EULA is heavy-handed on a computer that FrontPage is installed on. If this license is backed in court, the Bill of Rights is no longer law, and the original states that made that a condition of their ratification of the U.S. Constitution have the right - or obligation - to succeed.

The U.S Declaration of Independence explained in its opening words that people have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Corporations are afforded no such rights; you can take away Microsoft's existence, legally. When Microsoft declares who can live and die, which the use of DOS puts them in a situation to do, the Court is left with no choice but to eliminate this threat to Americans.

1. Seize all of Microsoft's financial assets.
2. Disconnect communications lines in and out of Microsoft's headquarters building
3. Clear out people from that building using the Washington National Guard, and that of surrounding states.
4. Use the assets to pay down the National Debt. If there's some left over (likely), start many software firms of less than fifty programmers each, maybe one team per state, to write replacement applications/programs. The small teams are where all innovation comes from. Let's repeat that:

**THE SMALL TEAMS ARE WHERE ALL INNOVATION COMES FROM!**

Microsoft had a good product in 1979, called Microsoft BASIC. They didn't invent BASIC, they just had the best implementation. Once they stole CP/M via QDOS and renamed it MS-DOS, everything up till the "Dot Net" initiative was a copy of a small company's innovation. Every single thing that they claim as an innovation, till "Dot Net", was somebody else's idea.

The "Dot Net" initiative is the closing of the fist around us; store all of your medical records, financial records, personal email, etc. in a server in Redmond. You won't even need your own hard drive anymore!

Your own room. Your own car. Your own house. Your own pets. Your own children. Your own mind.

What customer asked for this? This isn't entirely innovative, either; The Nazi's and Stalin have played with this idea before.

In 1979, while I was in junior high school, I started designing a graphics computer. I asked Microsoft about a memory chip that was already programmed with BASIC. Bill Gates himself wrote me back, saying that they only sold BASIC on a floppy formatted for the CP/M operating system. He advised me to build a CP/M computer, and buy a BASIC floppy from Microsoft.

They tell me he's the smartest man in the world, and I've taken that personal letter to heart: when I finish that computer, it'll run CP/M and I'll buy a BASIC floppy from Microsoft.

p.s. Ask Richard M. Stallman, of [www.gnu.org](http://www.gnu.org), what the remedy should be. Then you might reconsider the above as a moderate approach.